

REMARKS

Claims 9-15, 18 and 20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 9 and 18 are amended.

Applicants have considered the discussions held between the Examiner, his supervisor and the undersigned, as reflected in the Interview Summary dated May 17, 2006. As noted in the Interview Summary, the Examiner found claim 9 to be distinguishable over Mabuchi, but asserted that claim 18 was still pertinent to the subject matter of claim 18 because it simply stated that the first storage in the key and the second storage in the locking device are updated simultaneously. Applicants agreed to submit a further amendment to claim 18 that would clearly distinguish over the cited art to Mabuchi. Applicants' amendment is presented herein. The Examiner agreed to enter such amendment after final for purposes of allowance or appeal.

Amendment to Claims

In the Examiner's comment with respect to Mabuchi in the Invention Summary, the Examiner acknowledges that Mabuchi lacks the teaching of the writer transmitting updated identification information to the key when the restriction of the unlocking actuation of the limiter is released. In reviewing the language of claims 9 and 18 for mutual consistency, Applicants noted that amendments to both claims 9 and 18 are required in order to be supported by the original disclosure.

With respect to claim 9, the language of claim 9 must be amended to make it consistent with the illustration in Figs. 3 and 8, and the discussion in the specification on pages 19 and 25-27. In particular, Fig. 3 illustrates the writer 36i in manager 36 and teaches the location and operation of the writer at pages 19 and 25. At page 25, the description of terminals 35, which contain the locking mechanism and connect to the manager via a network, states that the terminals rewrite the authentication code, while the manager 36 performs the authorizing function. Finally, the teaching as to how the rewriting occurs, is provided at page 26, where the application teaches that the updated code is generated by the manager (specifically at the writer) in step R11, and is transmitted to the terminal gaming machine 35. According to the description at line 11, the application teaches that "when the key is turned (step R16), an updated ID code is

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transmitted from the terminal gaming machine 35 to the key 37 by radio communication (step R17).”

Thus, as to claim 9, the foregoing text supports (1) a manager having a writer that generates new identification information and (2) a terminal that updates the identification information in the key. The claim has been amended accordingly.

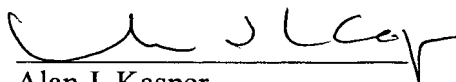
A similar amendment has been made to claim 18, where the terminal is considered the “locking device” and serves to update the first storage in the key.

As noted by the Examiner in the Interview Summary, Mabuchi lacks the teaching of the writer or locking device transmitting (or updating) identification information in the first storage in the key. Thus, given the foregoing amendments and in the absence of any more relevant prior art, claims 9 and 18, and the claims that depend therefrom, should be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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